

promises national testing and a one-size-fits-all education, because, hey, it worked really well the first time.

While I do admire some aspects of the core, such as fewer standards and an emphasis on application and writing, it's not going to fix our academic deficit. If nothing else, these standards are a glowing conflict of interest. And they lack the research they allegedly received. And most importantly, the standards illustrate a mistrust of teachers, something I believe this county has already felt for a while.

I've been fortunate to have incredible educators that opened my eyes to the joy of learning, and I love them like my family. I respect them entirely, which is why it frustrates me to review the TEAM and APEX evaluation systems. These subjective anxiety-producers do more to damage a teacher's self-esteem than you realize. Erroneous evaluation coupled with strategic compensation presents a punitive model that, as a student, is like watching your teacher jump through flaming hoops to earn a score. Have you forgotten the nature of a classroom? A teacher cannot be evaluated without his students, because as a craft, teaching is an interaction. Thus how can you expect to gauge a teacher's success with no control for student participation or interest?

I stand before you because I care about education, but also because I want to support my teachers. And just as they fought for my academic achievement, so I want to fight for their ability to teach. This relationship is at the heart of instruction, yet there will never be a system by which it is accurately measured.

But I want to take a step back. We can argue the details ad infinitum. Yet I observe a much broader issue with education today. Standards-based education is ruining the way we teach and learn. Yes, I've already been told by legislators and administrators, Ethan, that's just the way things work. But why? I'm going to answer that question. It's bureaucratic convenience. It works with nuclear reactors, it works for business models, why can't it work with students? I mean, how convenient calculating exactly who knows what and who needs what. I mean, why don't we just manufacture robots instead of students? They last longer and they always do what they're told.

But education is unlike every other bureaucratic institute in our government. The task of teaching is never quantifiable. If everything I learned in high school is a measurable objective, I haven't learned anything. I'd like to repeat that. If everything I learned in high school is a measurable objective, I have not learned anything. Creativity, appreciation, inquisitiveness—these are impossible to scale, but they're the purpose of education, why our teachers teach, and why I choose to learn.

And today we find ourselves in a nation that produces workers. Everything is career and college preparation. Somewhere our founding fathers are turning in their graves, pleading, screaming, and trying to say to us that we teach to free minds, we teach to inspire, we teach to equip. The careers will come naturally.

I know we're just one city in a huge system that excitedly embraces numbers, but ask any of these teachers, ask any of my peers, and ask yourselves, haven't we gone too far with data?

I attended tonight's meeting to share my critiques, but as Benjamin Franklin quipped, any fool can criticize, condemn, and complain, and most fools do. The problems I cite are very real. And I only ask that you hear them out, investigate them, and do not dismiss them as another fool's criticisms. I'll close with a quote of Jane L. Stanford that Dr. McIntyre shared in a recent speech:

"You have my entire confidence in your ability to do conscientious work to the very best advantage to the students—that they be considered paramount to all and everything else. We're capable of fixing education, and I commit myself to that task. But you cannot ignore me, my teachers, or the truth. We need change, but not Common Core, high-stakes evaluations, or more robots." Thank you.

#### IN TRIBUTE TO MR. LESTER BAUM

#### HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 23, 2014*

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise with great solemnity to share with you the recent death of Mr. Lester Baum.

Lester Baum dedicated his life to working in the community. As a local fixture of Vernon, Connecticut, Lester was involved in politics, education, sports and the business community, working as a mentor, leader and friend to many.

Lester was also passionate about his country, which he loved, and as a Korean war veteran believed deeply in participation with the democratic process that makes America the great country it is today. During a long distinguished career in politics, Lester was one of Senator Christopher Dodd's earliest and consistent supporters during his campaigns for Connecticut's second district and the U.S. Senate, and served as 2nd Congressional District Coordinator for President Carter. Lester also sat as the Vernon Democratic Town Chairman for 10 years during the 1970s and 1980s.

On a personal note, from my first campaign for state representative from the town of Vernon to my most recent race for Congress, Lester was an incisive and consistent supporter of my efforts. I will never forget his simple but powerful advice, "there is no such thing as a shutout in politics," which was a strong source of support during my 2006 campaign for Congress, which I won by only 83 votes out of 242,000 ballots cast.

As a graduate of the University of Connecticut in 1948, Lester showed an unwavering dedication to the university which spanned several decades. As a familiar sight at most UConn basketball and soccer matches, Lester served as member of the UConn President's Athletic Task Force and the Athletic Advisory Committee. A two-term president of the UConn Club and a recipient of the UConn Alumni Association Jorgensen Award and the UConn Outstanding Contribution Award, Lester played an integral role in inspiring future generations of the university's graduates.

As a zealous participant in Connecticut civic life, Lester served in board member capacities for a number of local organizations including the Vernon Board of Tax Review, Hockanum Valley Community Council, Rockville Redevelopment Commission, the Advisory Board of South Windsor Bank and Trust and the Planning and Growth Committee at Rockville General Hospital. Also the owner and President of the local business Farm Car Care Center Inc., Lester was an upstanding member of his local Connecticut community.

Lester is succeeded by his wife; two children and eight grandchildren, and will be

sorely missed by his family along with a vast community of friends. Mr. Speaker, I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring the life and service of Lester Baum, and sharing our condolences with the family and friends he leaves behind.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF MR. DON FAUGHT

#### HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 23, 2014*

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Don Faught, as he completes his term serving as the 2013 President of the California Association of Realtors (CAR).

For over 25 years, Don has worked in the real estate industry in California. A second generation real estate professional, Don is currently Vice President and Managing Broker at Alain Pinel Realtors located in Pleasanton, California, in my district.

Don has been a member of the California Association of Realtors since 1987, and has served as a CAR Director since 1997. Before his term as CAR President in 2013, Don also served in leadership positions within the association, acting as President-Elect in 2012 and Treasurer in 2010 and 2011.

Throughout his career, Don has been an active member of CAR, serving on numerous committees, including as chair of the Federal Issues Committee and chair of the Strategic Planning and Finance Committee.

Don also has been involved in the real estate industry at the local and national levels. In 2000, Don served as President of the Bay East Association of Realtors, and was named Bay East's Outstanding Leader in both 2002 and 2008.

A National Association of Realtors Director since 2002, Don currently serves as Chair of the Economic Issues and Commercial Real Estate Trends Forum and is a member the Strategic Planning Committee. Don has received designations as a Certified Residential Specialist, and is a graduate of the Realtor Institute.

As CAR President, Don has worked to engage California Realtors and inspire them to get involved in their communities, taking action to ensure that the voice of the real estate industry is heard. During his term as President, Don has sought to reinforce the values of professionalism, ethics, and integrity within the industry.

Mr. Speaker, Realtors are a critical part of every community, as they enable the American dream of home ownership. I want to recognize Don for his service to his community and his contributions to the real estate industry. I wish him the best of luck as he continues to serve the residents of the East Bay.